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astic regard in which Wolfe was held by officers and soldiers alike.' There is nothing whatever to justify such an assertion. Wolfe's general orders sufficiently explained the cause of the disaster to all. The Grenadiers were alone to blame." It is not necessary to cite any secondary source in support of the assertion. James Gibson, writing to Governor Lawrence on the day after the event, uses these words: "The number of the wounded, more particularly officers, made it necessary for them to retreat, which they did as regularly and soldier-like as they advanced, at least we generally think so here, notwithstanding the cruel aspersion the inclosed paper threw on them 2 days after the action, and which disgusted every man who was an eye-witness of such gallantry as, perhaps, is not to be paralleled. . . . The attempt was, I had said, impracticable, which some general officers scarcely hesitated to say, one of them of Knowledge, Fortune and Interest, I have heard has said that the attack *then* and *there* was contrary to the advice and opinion of every officer, and when things come to this you'll judge what the event may be!" These are not the utterances of men who have confidence in their leader.

The Grenadiers blundered it is true; but it was a hazardous plan which depended upon the successful working of many combinations. "In none of these circumstances", to quote the words of Wolfe, "the essential matter resides. The great fault of that day consists in putting too many men into the boats, who might have been landed the day before, and might have crossed the falls with certainty, while a small body only remained to float; and the superfluous boats of the fleet employed in a feint that might divide the enemy's force. A man sees his error often too late to remedy it."

Instances might be multiplied of gross carelessness, and we do not consider that Mr. Willson has rendered any service to history in his attempts to clarify the account of the Quebec campaign. Until we have an opportunity to collate other letters of Wolfe we hesitate to offer any further opinion on his merit in the capacity of an editor.

Porfirio Diaz, President of Mexico: the Master Builder of a Great Commonwealth. By JOSÉ F. GODOY. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1910. Pp. xii, 253.)

THE author of this book has been connected with the diplomatic service of Mexico for many years and is now filling the post of minister to Cuba. By his foreign residence and training he has been well prepared to write a dispassionate biography of his great countryman. While his work is well done, it is plain that his narrative has been written under the limitations of his official position.

He adheres very closely to his subject, *The Master Builder of a Great Commonwealth*. Only four pages are devoted to his parentage, youth, and education, and in the compass of about twenty pages he covers the entire period of General Diaz's services in the important

War of the Reform, the French intervention, and his brilliant military career. The greater part of the work is taken up with an account of his administration as president, extending through the long period of thirty years. It may well be characterized as the most comprehensive and intelligent statement yet published of the great work of this statesman, which has given uninterrupted peace to the hitherto distracted country and wrought a complete transformation in finance, commerce, and society. This is made more vivid by profuse illustrations and maps of public buildings erected, harbor improvements, railroad construction, the wonderful growth of the capital, etc. Judicious extracts are made from the messages of the president to the National Congress, one of the most notable of these being his utterance on the Monroe Doctrine, showing that he is not inclined to recognize the hegemony of the United States.

One of the most interesting chapters is the *Private Life of President Diaz*, in which his exemplary character is pleasingly portrayed, the charming personality of his wife revealed, and the curtain lifted on his home life, habits, and recreations. We also find the work illustrated with not less than eleven portraits of the president in all stages and positions of his life; and with three of Mrs. Diaz, but unfortunately the latter fail to give an adequate idea of her charms.

Instances may be cited showing the limitations under which the author writes. At the restoration of the republican government following the French intervention, he states that General Diaz, "like Cincinnatus", retired to his small farm in his native state; but he omits the fact that he was at outs with President Juarez, and the next eight years or more in which he was engaged in conspiracy or revolutionary movements are passed over with very brief notice and the explanation that "it would take too long to rehearse" the causes. The Vera Cruz conspiracy of 1877 against the Diaz government is referred to as at one time very dangerous, but the ringleaders being "hastily condemned to death and executed, the severity and promptness of their sentence struck terror among their fellow conspirators". We are not surprised to read that henceforth attempts against the Diaz government were confined to the American side of the frontier. The fact is not made prominent that the battle-cry of the various Diaz revolutions was the non-re-election of the president, but the author shows that the constitution was four times altered to meet the changing situations occasioned by the occupation of the presidency by General Diaz.

The chapter which presents a résumé of his administration is exceedingly well done; and that in which the author collects the opinions of prominent public men of the United States fully sustains the unstinted praise which he bestows on his hero. But notwithstanding the merits of this book and the many others which treat of this period of Mexican history, the real biography of this most unique character in Latin America is yet to be written, which shall contain an impartial narrative

of his defects and errors which are few, and of his beneficent achievements for his country and his race which are many.

Francisco de Miranda and the Revolutionizing of Spanish America.

By WILLIAM SPENCE ROBERTSON, Ph.D. (Washington: Government Printing Office. 1909. Pp. 189-539.)

THIS essay is noteworthy as an attempt to unravel some part of the tangled skein of intrigues and negotiations in which South Americans and Europeans were involved prior to the war for the emancipation of Spanish America. It deals with a subject hitherto only imperfectly examined; and this fact furnishes the author an opportunity to present topics concerning which few students of history have more than vague and superficial information. The larger question here entered upon is the relation of the European nations to the Spanish colonies in America, in view of the increasing dissatisfaction of the colonists with Spanish rule. The knowledge that Spain's vast American possessions were slipping from her grasp naturally excited a desire in some of the European nations to enter into this goodly heritage; still, as long as Spain's control was not actually repudiated by the colonists or relinquished by Spain herself, no nation appeared to be willing to be known as seeking to supplant Spanish authority. But underneath this outward respect for international conventions both England and France cherished a strong desire to participate in the salvage following the wreck of Spain's colonial system. The author of this essay has examined with care a great mass of documents containing evidence of this desire, and setting forth the work of Miranda in seeking especially to persuade the English government to assist the colonists in their proposed revolt and emancipation. In this part of his book he has brought together a large amount of information not otherwise readily accessible; and the contribution to this phase of Miranda's career is sufficiently interesting to lead the reader on, in spite of a style that in some parts has the crudeness of the notes which one makes directly from documents as a preliminary to a subsequent elaboration into a proper literary form.

The chapters dealing with the career of Miranda in Venezuela are evidently written to complete the story; they do not give evidence that the subject with which they deal is the preferred part of the writer's theme. The figure of Miranda appears here with his personal characteristics clearly set forth, but his background is not sufficiently developed. The excellence of the book would have been increased if the author had presented in clearer outlines the environment of Miranda during his activity in his native country. The Spanish-American hero of the war of emancipation is not properly comprehended except as he is seen against the peculiar conditions under which he lived and worked. In this account, we pass from Miranda's activity in London and Paris to his life in Venezuela without having brought clearly to our minds the thought that he had entered a new social atmosphere as far removed